

STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES & PUBLIC PROTECTION DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY



Posted at 2:15 PM on 11/26/13...

The National Weather Service has issued Flood Watches for Hartford, Tolland and Windham counties from 1:00 AM Wednesday morning until 4:00 PM Wednesday afternoon. A Wind Advisory is in effect for Southern Fairfield, Southern New Haven and all of Middlesex and New London counties from midnight tonight until midnight Wednesday night. A Wind Advisory is also in effect from 1:00 AM Wednesday morning until 4:00 PM Wednesday afternoon.

A low pressure system currently located over the Florida Panhandle this afternoon will move quickly to the Northeast during the next 6-12 hours and up the Eastern Seaboard overnight. As this storm system moves up the coast overnight the low pressure system is forecast to intensify resulting in strong south and southeast winds ahead of the storm. These strong winds are forecast to spread into Southern New England around midnight tonight and continue through early Wednesday afternoon. Rain, heavy at times is expected between midnight tonight and late Wednesday afternoon. Another period of strong winds is expected Wednesday night and Thursday Morning. The following forecast is based on a blend of the GFS and NAM computer models:

This Afternoon: Mixed precipitation developing from West to East between 3:00 – 6:00 PM. Towns North of I-84 may see a few hours of light snow with towns South of I-84 seeing a brief mix of rain, sleet and snow with temperatures in the mid 30's. A few remote roads may become slick, however most roads should only be wet with a minor impact on the afternoon rush hour.

This Evening and Overnight: Any mixed precipitation is expected to change to all rain by 8:00 PM with little or no accumulation on roads and perhaps an inch or two on grassy surfaces in higher elevations. Temperatures are expected to rise into the upper 30's by Midnight. South and southeast winds are forecast to increase by midnight and are forecast to be sustained at 25 – 35 MPH with gusts to 50 MPH at times overnight. Temperatures are forecast to climb through the 40's overnight.

Wednesday: Strong winds gusting to 55 MPH at times along the coast and 50 MPH inland with rain heavy at times Wednesday morning. The winds may subside somewhat Wednesday afternoon as the rain continues into early Wednesday evening. Highs between 50 – 60 F.

Wednesday Night and Thursday: As the rainfall ends from West to East late Wednesday afternoon and evening winds are forecast to shift to the Northwest and increase back to 20 - 30 MPH with gusts to 45 MPH overnight and into Thursday morning. Temperatures are forecast to drop to near 30 F by early Thursday morning with a few snow showers which could result in black ice especially in the higher elevations and on untreated roadways. The winds are finally forecast to slowly subside Thursday afternoon as the storm system departs New England.

The impact of the winds from this event is expected to be minor to moderate depending on how close to the surface the strongest winds occur. The primary threat should be from tree limbs falling onto power lines and a few whole trees being felled by the winds.

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Total rainfall is expected to generally range from 2-3 inches across the state. A few locations may receive up to 5" of rainfall however these higher totals are expected to be isolated. Urban and small stream flooding is possible Wednesday morning and into Wednesday afternoon, however river flooding is not expected as conditions have been dry and rivers are currently very low.

Overall this appears to be a minor event in terms of flooding, a minor to moderate wind event and a moderate impact on air travel.

The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security will continue to monitor the latest conditions, however this will be the only update today unless the forecast changes or additional watches or warnings are issued by the NWS.